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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,464	02/27/2002	Alan Donaldson	049923-5011	4795

7590

08/06/2003

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP  
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Washington, DC 20036

EXAMINER

DUVERNE, JEAN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/083,464

Applicant(s)

DONALDSON ET AL. *bw*

Examiner

Jean F. Duverne

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6-7, 18-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 13-17, 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Earles (EP 0100 086).

In regard to claims 1-5, Earles' device discloses a fiber tail assembly for connecting an optical fiber (60) to an optical device: comprising an outer sleeve (61) having a front end for connecting to an optical device and a back end; a ferrule sealing at 68 located in the outer sleeve, the sealing includes substantial axial bore at 64, the ferrule seal for hermetically sealing the seal ferrule to the outer sleeve at 61, 67; an outer fiber extending from a back end of the sealing ferrule, through a bore, and protrudes out of a front end of the sealing ferrule, and a fiber seal (63), a relief stress tube (61) located in the outer sleeve, the optical fiber located in the tube, spacer tube at 62, a front end at as being unstripped, a cap at 80.

In regard to claims 8-12, Earle's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including the use of ceramic or glass used as sealing material, the ferrule sealing comprising solder or glass (see pages 1-2).



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In regard to claims 13-17, 19-24, Earle's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to disclose the method of providing the fiber tail. The method of providing the fiber tail is germane to the issue of patentability by itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

### **Conclusion**

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 6-7, 18-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Prior art fails to disclose the stripped fiber passing through the front section cap, the bore of the cap ferrule in the back section sized to accommodate the diameter of the unstripped length with the rest of the claims limitations.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean F. Duverne whose telephone number is (703) 305-0297. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-8:00, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.




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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JFD  
July 27, 2003



Jean F. Duverne  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839